

# Statewide Interoperability Governance Board

## Minutes

August 11, 2016

1:30 p.m.

## Montana Department of Transportation Commission Room

### Members Present:

Sheriff Leo Dutton, MSPOA, Chair  
Ron Baldwin, DOA/SCIO  
Fire Chief Bob Drake, MSVFA, Alternate

Jon Swartz, MDT, Alternate  
Delila Bruno, MDMA  
Bob Armstrong, MDOJ, Alternate  
☞ Commissioner Joe Briggs, MACO

### Staff Present:

Quinn Ness, DOA/SITSD  
Jennifer Schofield, DOA/SITSD

### Guests Present:

Mike Feldman, MDOJ/MHP; Roger Smith, Lewis & Clark County; Bradley Shoemaker, Yellowstone County; Brad Steiner, Motorola Solutions; Keith Cook, Motorola Solutions; Steve Keller, MDT; Mike Raczkowski, MDOC; Dan Sullivan, MDOA/SITSD; Dan Hawkins, U.S. DHS/OEC; E. Wing Spooner, MDOA/SITSD; Bob Paul, MDOC

### ☞ Real-time Communication:

Sandra Barrows, Barrows Consulting; Charlie Gillmore, Lewis & Clark County

### Welcome and Introductions

Sheriff Leo Dutton welcomed the council to the August 11, 2016 SIGB meeting. All members and guests were introduced.

### Minutes

Bob Drake made a motion to approve the June 9, 2016 minutes as presented. Ron Baldwin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### Business

#### **FirstNet 2016 Consolation Update**

Quinn Ness discussed the FirstNet consultation activities. FirstNet is on track for the awarding contract for the nationwide public safety broadband network, as proposed. Development of state plans will begin as soon as a partner is selected and is under contract. FirstNet will continue to accept data inputs through September 30, 2016. In addition, FirstNet will continue to focus on several key topics: coverage, users and operational areas, capacity, and current services and procurement. At this time, FirstNet will deliver the state plan in the second half of 2017. Consultation activities in 2016 include: The FirstNet SPOC kick off meeting (March 2, 2016) and FirstNet's participation in the governance body meeting (June 9, 2016 SIGB meeting). The next task in the outreach plan is the establishment of the Consultation Task Team (CTT), which the SIGB formed during the last meeting. That team is scheduled to meet August 25, 2016 in Bozeman, MT. The final meeting, as part of the outreach plan, will be the Executive Consultation Meeting and will include the SIGB, as well as the Governor's Office. The estimated date for the executive meeting is July 2017. FirstNet also rolled out a new component of the 2016 outreach plan called Metropolitan Engagements. These engagements will include local public safety agencies. FirstNet will share information on network planning, schedule/timeline, and deployment of the network. They also plan to establish a dialogue with individuals on a local level to address questions and concerns. FirstNet staff is projecting that these engagements will be held in Bozeman, Billings, Butte, Great Falls, Missoula, Helena, and Kalispell. At this time, we only have the date for the Bozeman meeting which will be held on Friday, August 26, 2016. The next meeting for the state Single Point of Contacts (SPOCs) is scheduled for November 14, 2016 in Phoenix, Arizona. The CTTs are the state based groups that will provide a formal opportunity for input regarding FirstNet network policies and operations. The first CTT is on Quality of Service, Priority and Preemption and builds on the work of FirstNet's Public Safety Advisory Committee. Staff

will be in Bozeman helping to assist in this initial CTT meeting and they will provide a status report at the September 2016 meeting. Trudy Skari and the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs continue to engage with FirstNet's tribal consultation staff and with Montana's tribes. FirstNet has two regional tribal liaisons, as well as a Public Safety Advisory Tribal Working Group that Trudy has been working with.

As a government entity, FirstNet is required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. FirstNet is currently preparing five regional programmatic environmental impact statements that will evaluate the potential impacts of network deployment in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five territories. FirstNet is currently consulting with numerous federal agencies and planning the development of the draft impact statements. There will be public comment periods after each draft impact statement is published.

In closing, Mr. Ness addressed rumors regarding the requirement of states to contribute financially to the deployment costs of the FirstNet network. Conversations and official correspondence with FirstNet staff confirmed that once FirstNet delivers the final state plan, the financial contractual risk of the network build-out and operations within Montana will be the sole responsibility of FirstNet and its partners.

### **Public Comment**

Q: Bob Drake: Last meeting we talked about the fact that we do not have maintenance contracts on the microwave backbone. What has transpired since the last meeting to solve that problem?

A: Charlie Gillmore: As far as I know, nothing.

A: Roger Smith: As far as I know, nothing has progressed other than just the information we brought to the SIGB last time.

Q: Bob Drake: Was there a microwave outage last night?

A: Roger Smith: Yes, there was a problem between the control centers. Motorola monitors the system full time. If there are 3 bid errors within 15 minutes, they call in a trouble report. At 12:30 AM everything was back up and running.

Chief Drake expressed concern about these outages, the lack of service that accompanies them, and the absence of a maintenance contract to service this equipment. He highlighted the extra stress these outages place on himself and his staff. He emphasized the critical aspect of the microwave backbone.

Q: Leo Dutton: Are there suggestions from the board or the group on how we would secure funding for microwave maintenance and upgrades?

**Motion:** Mr. Baldwin made a motion to place on the September 8, 2016 agenda for consideration of the board - options for centralized maintenance and administration of statewide LMR with the goal of sustaining its technology and funding as a trunked interoperable system that multiple state and local public safety jurisdictions depend upon. Bob Drake seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chief Drake expressed concern about the idea of transferring ownership, due to two failed attempts in the past. He also voiced concern regarding the possibility of transferring ownership to an entity that would be subject to funding changes every two years. Ron Baldwin clarified that the motion put forth was to address the question, not to make a solid recommendation. Mr. Baldwin also acknowledged the critical nature of the microwave backbone and its value to the safety of all Montanans at both state and local levels. Jon Swartz stated that he did not believe that the risk of the legislature revoking funding after a two-year period was a serious risk. He also commented that the reason for previous failures in funding and ownership attempts were due to the fact that the system was not housed within a state entity. A centralized state agency would give all interested parties a central entity to rally around and, if there is broad based stakeholder support for the program, the legislature will fund it.

Sheriff Dutton mentioned a meeting in the past with Steve Procter, with the Utah Communications Agency Network (UCAN). He suggested an independent agency that has statewide area responsibility. Mr. Procter also suggested local ownership. Sheriff Dutton agreed that one central agency is needed to facilitate the seamless operation of this system and acknowledged valuable contributions from the Department of Corrections in the first 6 years of the programing and funding. The possibility of having another entity, possibly the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) or the Highway Patrol, take ownership of the system was mentioned with an emphasis on the importance of maintaining local control. The question of the 800 system

versus the microwave system was also mentioned in conjunction with the fact that there is now technology that could merge these two systems if that was deemed most efficient. Mr. Swartz was questioned about the possibility of funding from the MDT.

Mr. Swartz confirmed that they did receive an FTE but there was no funding associated with it. Current budget cuts to MDT were also discussed. Mr. Swartz described the need for sustainable state funding to ensure proper function and maintenance at the highest level possible. The only way to acquire this funding is for the legislature to appropriate it to a state agency that is the designated owner of the system. Delila Bruno agreed with Jon's assessment and suggested that the designated entity be chosen on the basis of their proximity to the system. By designating an agency that actually uses the system, a closer relationship to local government and system users can be maintained.

Roger Smith emphasized the importance of having a central location for the infrastructure (trunk sites) and microwave backbone while the dispatch centers and their mobile support should remain the responsibility of the county. There are smaller counties that do not have the funds to maintain their sites and these have become mission critical pieces that really aren't being taken care of. Entering into an agreement with a state agency to relinquish control and give authorization to that entity without actually turning over the equipment may also be a possibility.

Charlie Gillmore put forward the example of Gallatin County. Through mutual cooperation, they are creating a way to maintain this system. Larger counties have more resources to maintain their sites and can find creative ways. In smaller counties that lack resources, a centralized system would be of great benefit. Jon Swartz agreed with this idea of mutual cooperation but emphasized the need for central funding as MDT has many other responsibilities besides maintaining this system.

**Action Item:** SIGB staff will email the Statewide Trunked LMR System O&M Plan to the Board.

Sheriff Dutton clarified the goal for this project as interoperability. Although state funding will be sought, there will still be some cost to local government. Charlie Gillmore stated that leadership from the SIGB board members would be essential in getting legislative approval for state funding. Jon Swartz voiced his opinion that the legislature is looking for accountability, specifically an entity to hold responsible, when appropriating large funds like the amounts that would be required to maintain this system.

Brad Steiner, Motorola Solutions, agreed with the board's motion to consider centralized ownership of the statewide Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system within an existing state agency to maintain long term funding and continuity of service.

Bob Armstrong, MDOJ mentioned the need for immediate funds to replace equipment that has reached the end of its life cycle in addition to the need for long-term sustainable funding, possibly involving user fees.

Ron Baldwin clarified the executive and legislative decision making processes to help the board understand the funding opportunities that may be available. He also verbalized the need to establish a set of guiding principles for creating a series of options for moving forward in this decision making process.

**Action Item:** Mr. Baldwin requested that Mr. Ness solicit and gather comments and suggestions related to principles that would guide the board's decision in the next meeting.

Sheriff Dutton recommended the board members consult with those they represent and discuss the options laid out. The outcome of these discussions and ideas generated will then be considered at the next meeting, including the decision on which state agency should take over ownership of the LMR system.

### **Next Meeting**

Date: Thursday, September 8, 2016 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
MDT Commission Room

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 pm.